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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FWS ISSUES FISHERY OUTLOOK REPORT FOR SECOND QUARTER OF 1953

A good demand for some fishery products and unsettled markets for others during the second quarter of 1953 are predicted in the quarterly outlook report issued today by the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service.

Markets for canned fishery products and for a few fresh and frozen products are expected to be fairly firm, while an active market for fish meal is anticipated. Production of fresh fishery products and storage stocks of frozen fishery commodities are expected to be heavy during the quarter. Intense competition from other foods is forecast, and a high level of importation of frozen fishery products is expected to accentuate the situation.

A fairly steady market is seen for butterfish, mackerel, sea bass, swordfish, red snapper, sablefish, salmon, canned herring, canned mackerel, canned salmon, and canned tuna. Sea trout, sardines, and salt herring are expected to have fairly firm markets. A strong market for croakers and shad is predicted, but the shad market is expected to weaken as the quarter progresses. An active market for mild-cured salmon is forecast. Unsettled markets for halibut, scup or porgy, smelt, and whiting are predicted. The market for flounders, sole, and ocean perch is expected to be somewhat dull. Haddock, pollock, cod, and rockfishes will have weak markets, according to the report.

Among the shellfish, the following markets are forecast: Shrimp---active. Spiny lobsters---firm. Clams, scallops, canned crab meat, and canned shrimp---fairly steady. Fresh crab meat, lobsters, and canned oysters---unsettled. Oysters---dull in April and virtually no market thereafter. Among the byproducts, the following markets are predicted: Fish meal---active. Fish oils and fish-liver oils---weak.

Seventeenth in the quarterly outlook report series, the forecast was prepared in the Branch of Commercial Fisheries. It discusses about 40 different fishery commodities and is illustrated with some 50 charts. Under the title "Quarterly Outlook for Marketing Fishery Products, April-June 1953," Fishery Leaflet 336-p, copies may be obtained from the Division of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.

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